

Workers after they separated from the UAW, and he supported and became an active leader of the New Directions Movement within the UAW. In those endeavors, Victor Reuther drew on his passionate advocacy for the role of rank and file membership in democratic trade unionism. He understood well the pressures on trade union leadership and the critical role of the rank and file throughout organized labor.

Victor Reuther was active in the political life of the United States in many ways complementary to his goals in labor. He served in presidential appointments, in leadership in a wide array of political and social justice organizations, including support of the full scope of civil rights as we have come to understand those goals in social justice.

In the mid-1990s Victor again undertook a task in personal and historical research to write a second book, *Commitment and Betrayal*, *Foreigners at the Gorky Auto Works*, the story of the tragedy that befell foreign workers of Gorky under the Stalinist Soviet Union, English language publication pending.

In his 90th year, Victor chose to move to a retirement residence in Georgetown, a move that launched a reawakening of his well honed leadership skills. Responding to fellow residents, Victor agreed to lead a weekly discussion of current international affairs, and for nearly 2 years, that discussion group of 20 to 30 octogenarians deliberated every Thursday afternoon on the core international issues of the day.

In his 92nd year, on March 30, 2004, Victor Reuther accepted the "Lifetime Achievement Award" of Progressive Maryland before a cheering audience of 600 political activists. In his acceptance remarks—which became his last public remarks—Victor complimented the gathered members of Progressive Maryland on their commitment to the same goals in support of working people he advocated throughout his life. He then concluded with a charge to that audience of 600 political activists: "Don't forget your love of and commitment to family." That perspective brings Victor and the Reuther family full circle to the nurturing environment of their parents, Valentine and Anna Reuther, a blessing for which we are eternally grateful.

Victor G. Reuther died on June 3, 2004. He was pre-deceased by his wife, Sophie, and his daughter Carole L. Hill. He is survived by his sister, Christine Richey, his sons Eric V. Reuther and John S. Reuther, and seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

AWARDS AND HONORS

1972—Social Justice Award of the UAW; 1972—Cross of the Order of Merit, highest award of the Federal Republic of Germany Honorary Doctor of Laws, Wayne State University; 1979—Order of the First of May, Venezuela's highest trade union honor; 2002—Knight of the Polar Star, Sweden's highest civilian award; 2002—Honorary Doctor of Laws, West Virginia University.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 7, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4754) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes:

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Chairman, This great country of ours was built on the backs of willing and abled entrepreneurs who, with a little faith and help, started their own businesses in hopes of achieving the American dream of prosperity and success. It is this desire to own a business that is the backbone of our economy. With small businesses representing more than 99 percent of all employers and creating roughly 75 percent of the net new jobs, it is quite clear to see their importance in the economy.

As such, I rise today in support of the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois to maintain level funding for the 7(a) loan program. One of the most successful tools in the Small Business Administration's arsenal, the 7(a) loan program helps qualified businesses acquire financing when they may otherwise be prevented from obtaining a loan through the normal financial channels.

During the 2002–2003 fiscal years, the 9th district of Missouri, which I have the distinct honor of representing, received \$37 million in 7(a) loans. This translates into the creation and/or retention of more than 1,100 jobs in the small business community. For rural districts, like mine, this incentive is essential.

One example of this is Moresource, Inc. located in Columbia, MO, which is in my district and where I currently live with my family. In 1994, Kat Cunningham had an idea to create a business that would focus solely on the management of employee administrative matters, such as payroll, tax compliance, health benefits and other human resources issues. Her thought was that by handling these cumbersome and time consuming tasks, small businesses can focus on increasing productivity and their core business objective.

With the aid of a sizeable Small Business Administration 7(a) loan, Kat turned this concept into a reality and created Moresource, Inc. 10 years later, the company has grown from 5 internal employees and 200 leased employees to 7 internal and more than 1,500 leased employees. Kat will tell you that without the assistance of a 7(a) loan, it is questionable whether Moresource would have had the opportunity to get off the ground.

Stephanie Perkins also credits the 7(a) loan program with making her dreams come true. Because of challenges Stephanie faced in obtaining a loan through traditional lenders, the 7(a) loan program provided her with the capital she needed to start up her own business. Stephanie opened the doors to Brown Station Early Learning Center in the fall of 2000 with help from the 7(a) loan program. Since that time, she has almost doubled the employees

in her daycare center, which provides Columbia working parents with the peace of mind of knowing that their children are in safe and caring hands.

These are just two examples of how critical the 7(a) loan program is to Missouri businesses. It also illustrates the hand-up it can provide to support and encourage women who are willing to take risks and start a business venture. In the state of Missouri, we have an estimated, according to the Center for Women's Business Research, 129,865 privately held companies in which women hold the majority of ownership, accounting for 30.8 percent of all privately held firms in the state. The success of these outstanding women has contributed to the employment of 241,992 Missourians and generated \$26 billion in sales.

The 7(a) loan program is crucial to developing and sustaining small businesses in America. It is also small business entrepreneurs that we have to thank for the 1.5 million jobs that have been created in the past 10 months. Furthermore, these enterprising and hard-working individuals have brought us an unemployment rate that is lower than the decade averages of the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. For these and many other reasons, I urge all my colleagues to support small business and economic growth with a vote for the Manzullo amendment.

HONORING EUGENE DIBBLE'S 75TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Eugene Dibble as he prepares to celebrate his 75th birthday on July 22, 2004. Mr. Dibble also known as "Big Gene" has been a leader and a pioneer in many areas since moving to the City of Chicago. He was one of the first African American stockbrokers in Chicago. In addition, Mr. Dibble demonstrated his business and family acumen by owning five businesses at one time and having five children who worked in those businesses.

In addition, to being a businessman Mr. Dibble was elected and served as a Trustee for the Chicago Sanitary District. Among Mr. Dibble's many talents has been his keen focus and vision on homeland security. Seven years ago, Mr. Dibble came to my office with a proposal for an Emergency Response Center that would be available in the event of a terrorist attack in downtown Chicago. Perhaps Mr. Dibble's volunteerism for the Red Cross, Salvation Army and emergency response teams in Chicago and Markham, Illinois prepared him for his leading role in being prepared for disasters.

Among Mr. Dibble's greatest accomplishments is that of a family man. Mr. Dibble has been married to his wife Jeanette for 48 years. Also, they are the proud grandparents of six grandkids and counting.

I ask that my colleagues join with me in commending and congratulating Gene and his family as they celebrate 75 years of his life. Gene may God keep you and bless you with many happy healthy years to come.

Thank you.